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The Aftershock

Thousands of peoples’ lives have an effect on the world. There are, however, not many people whose death changes the world. The assassination of Malcolm X had a noticeable impact on society. People learn and grow from events like this. Malcolm’s death was front page news that showed what racism and violence can lead to. His dramatic life is riddled with hate and a demand for freedom.

Malcolm Little was born March 19, 1925. He was originally called Malcolm Little but changed it to Malcolm X to show that his name originated from slave owners. While young his family was threatened by the Ku Klux Klan so they had to move. Four of Malcolm’s dads’ brothers died from acts of violence. Through this it’s easy to see how he could be an angry individual. He was sent to a foster home then to a juvenile detention center for poor behavior. After that, he went back to school and became very popular. Also, he was one of the top students in his class. In 1942, Malcolm moved to New York where he dealed drugs and eventually turned to robbery. Four years later he was sentenced to ten years in prison for armed robbery. While in prison, he would smoke cigarettes and marijuana that guards smuggled in. His roommates called him Satan because of how much he sweared. Malcolm’s siblings wrote to him and encouraged him to read and improve his writing skills. Also, they convinced him to become a Black Muslim. Malcolm came to believe that white people were devils.

Malcolm’s philosophies were opposite of what most other important names of the time believed. He criticized Martin Luther King Jr., Ghandi, and Christian teachings that tell blacks not to fight back when they’re attacked. Elijah Muhammad was the speaker for the nation of Islam until he grew ill and asked Malcolm X to take over. His public appearances created jealousy in other Black Muslims. These feelings turned to anger when Malcolm X made racial remarks after the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Elijah suspended Malcolm from speaking for the Black Muslims for ninety days. On February 14, 1965 Malcolm X and his family were sleeping when Molotov cocktails were thrown in the house. They narrowly escaped and then had to watch as all their possessions burned.

While Malcolm was giving a speech for a Black Nationalist rally at the Audubon Ballroom, three men rushed on stage and shot thirty bullets. Seven hit their target. Surprisingly, the three shooters were all black. One of the shooters escaped through the bathroom window. The other two ran down the flight of stairs as the crowd chased and threw things at them. A guard managed to shoot one of them in the leg, his name was Thomas Hagan. Police officers had to rescue him from the angry mob that nearly killed him. Malcolm X was buried at Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, New York.

The assassination of Malcolm X made a noticeable impact on our world. He being killed made everyone realize the need for equal rights now. They knew that have no action was taken violence would continue to break out. Also, it showed people that being violent will only make the problems worse.

Malcolm X was a man of good and evil. He had a rough childhood which he rightfully blamed on the whites. Also, he was one of the smartest kids in his grade. Many people viewed him as someone built on violence and revenge. In truth he was a little messed up, but he had a strong point for black rights. If we still hadn’t given the blacks freedom it would have been reasonable for them to fight their freedom instead of letting people order them around.